

Danielle Korsmo | UND Student Government
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Chairman Wobbema and members of the Workforce Development Committee,

My name is Danielle Korsmo, and I serve as a member of the executive board for Student Government at the University of North Dakota (UND). I am providing testimony supporting HB 1382, relating to scholarships for registered apprenticeship program participants.

Apprenticeship programs are a viable post-secondary route for many students. This bill expands opportunities for recipients of the North Dakota Choice Ready scholarship to use towards these programs. Many of the workforce needs of this state are positions that can be filled through apprenticeships; students can efficiently build a skillset that prepares them for work in North Dakota. Moreover, career exploration is a large part of higher education for incoming students. Making apprenticeships more readily accessible gives students an opportunity to explore areas they might not have considered before, providing foundational skills that relate to other needed positions upon which to build in the industry.

The financial burdens of higher education can be a detrimental factor in completion for many students. However, academic success is also promoted through financial motivation. Increased incentive in the form of scholarships is not only encouraging for students, but also relieves some financial stress that may hinder educational performance. Students who have recently graduated from post-secondary school lack many resources to fund any sort of further education. In order to bring in leaders with the necessary skills to fulfill workforce needs in North Dakota, we must support and nurture our students.

I respectfully request a **DO PASS on HB 1382**. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Danielle Korsmo
VP Chief of Staff, UND Student Government

